

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/683,375

Applicant(s)

WOMBLE ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Doug Hutton

2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Response to Restriction Requirement filed on 10 May 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-14.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date (see attached).

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
- ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
- ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- ☐ Other _____

Doug Hutton
Examiner
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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Peter H. Priest on 18 July 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Specification:

- in Paragraph 0065 on Page 16 → amend "720E" to — 720D —.
- on Page 20, replace Paragraph 0079 with the following paragraph:

Fig. 14 illustrates the browser window 300 displaying a hypertext page 1402, resulting from a reviewer's activation of the command ~~4440~~ 1312 to review the course described by the course entry ~~4408~~ 1308. The hypertext page 1402 includes headings for various elements of the course under review, such as the heading 1404. Also visible is a browser window 1406 displaying a hypertext page 1408, resulting from a reviewer activation of the heading 1404.

- on Page 20, replace Paragraph 0080 with the following paragraph:

Also visible is a text entry box 1410, resulting from a selection to add review notes to the page 1408. The text entry box 1410 includes a text entry field 1412 for entering text, such as notes or comments, about the page being reviewed, as well as a Save data command 1414 and a Close Window command 1416.

Activating the Save Data command 1414 associates the text entered in the field ~~1416~~ 1412 with the page 1408 and saves the text in the course library 204. Activating the Close Window command closes the text entry box 1410.

In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A computerized training management system tangibly embodied on a computer-readable medium, comprising:

- a course library including course information for a plurality of training courses, each training course comprising a plurality of course documents organized in a sequence for presentation to a student, the course information for each course including assignment information indicating classes of users to which the course may be assigned;
- a user database including user information including a user entry for each of a plurality of users having actual or potential responsibility for one or more courses,

the user database including user status information including the status of a user with respect to one or more courses;

- a training administration module for associating courses, students and other users having responsibilities for courses, and for retrieving and reporting user and course information, the training administration module being operative to retrieve user information from the user database and course information from the course library and to process and format the user information and course information for display, the training administration module being further operative to modify the course information and user information to assign courses to classes of users; and
- a course creation module for creating courses, the course creation module including a document editor having access to a template database comprising a plurality of stored templates, the course creation module being operative to create a course comprising a plurality of course documents, the document editor being operative to create a document by retrieving a stored template and placing appropriate text, graphics and other material in the template in response to user entries, the course creation module also including a course creation buffer for temporary storage of course documents after creation by the document editor, the course creation module being operative to store course documents as they are created, the course creation module being further operative to organize the course documents into a desired sequence in response to user selections in order to form a completed course and to store the course in the course library.

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2. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein each user entry includes profile information for one or more user profiles applicable to the user and one of which may be selected by the user at any one time, each user profile including profile information specifying the information and functions available to the user when the user has selected that profile.

3. (original) The system of claim 2 wherein the profile information includes course responsibility information applicable to the profile and the user and wherein the course responsibility information specifies all courses for which the user has responsibility and the nature of the responsibility of the user for the course.

4. (currently amended) The system of claim 3 wherein the user entry for each user may include one or more of:

- a student profile enabling a student to register for and take one or more available courses,
- an administrator profile giving an administrator oversight responsibility for one or more courses and allowing an administrator to create, edit or assign a course and to review the progress of students taking or assigned to courses for which the administrator has responsibility,
- a reviewer profile giving the reviewer responsibility to review one or more courses and to enter comments ~~an~~ and suggestions which are conveyed to the administrator having responsibility for the course,

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- a manager profile giving a manager oversight responsibility for one or more users and allowing the manager to assign courses to students for which the manager has responsibility and to review the progress of students for whom the manager has responsibility, and
- a training manager profile, allowing the training manager complete access to all information in the system and allowing the training manager to perform all functions available under a student profile, an administrator profile, a reviewer profile or a manager profile.

5. (original) The system of claim 4 wherein each course comprises a sequence of hypertext pages including links to preceding and following pages in the course and wherein each course includes an introductory page outlining the course and providing links to subsequent pages in the course.

6. (original) The system of claim 5 wherein each course is organized into a sequence of chapters and wherein each chapter is further organized into a sequence of sections.

7. (original) The system of claim 6 wherein each chapter includes an introductory page listing the sections in the chapter with hypertext links to each section.

8. (original) The system of claim 7 wherein each section includes an introductory page listing the pages comprising the section with hypertext links to each page.

9. (currently amended) The system of claim 8 wherein the course creation module receives initial course information from a user upon a selection by the user to create a course, the initial course information including a course title and numerical information indicating how many chapters are to make up the course and, upon submission of the information by the user, organizes an initial course framework based on the information, the initial course framework including a course introductory page and a number of blank chapters, the number of blank chapters being the number indicated in the initial course information, each blank chapter including a chapter introductory page and a single section, the single section including a section introductory page, the course introductory page including an outline of the course with links to each chapter and section and the chapter introductory page including an outline of the chapter with a link to the section, the course creation module being operative to add additional chapters, sections or pages to the initial course framework upon a user selection and to update the introductory pages page to include the added elements.

10. (original) The system of claim 9 , wherein the course creation module further comprises a course content database and wherein the document editor is operative to retrieve course elements from the course content database for incorporation into a course document.

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11. (original) The system of claim 10 , wherein each user entry includes a student profile, each student profile including a student status with respect to each course for which the student is eligible.

12. (original) The system of claim 11 , wherein the training administration module is operative to edit the status of each student according to selections made by an authorized user.

13. (original) The system of claim 12 , wherein the training administration module is operative to modify the status of each student with respect to a course according to activities undertaken by the student in relation to the course.

14. (original) The system of claim 13 , wherein the training administration module is operative to retrieve course information and user information and prepare reports presenting selected course and student information.

Claims 15-27 (cancelled).

Drawings

The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant: in Fig. 15 for course entry 1512, the reference number for the "Info" button must be amended from "1504" to — 1514 —.

In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-14 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1:

The closest prior art is Hollingsworth, U.S. Patent No. 6,157,808. Hollingsworth discloses a computerized employee certification and training system. The system comprises a database of training courses and a database of employee identifications, job descriptions and required skills for job performance. The system allows a user to develop training courses and evaluate an employee's compliance with applicable regulations related to training, development and licensing of personnel.

However, the system in Hollingsworth identifies *individual* employees who are required to take a training course and *directly enrolls* each employee to a required training course. This is in contrast to the invention in the present application, which includes assignment information for each training course that indicates *classes of users*

who are eligible to take a training course and allows a user to modify course information and user information to *assign training courses to classes of users*.

Thus, the prior art fails to disclose or suggest a computerized training management system that allows users to create, manage, administer and participate in training courses, comprising every limitation recited in Claim 1, which includes:

- a course library that includes course information for a plurality of courses, the information indicating *classes of users eligible to take each course*;
- a user database that includes user status information with respect to one or more of the courses;
- a training administration module that is used to associate, retrieve and report user information and course information, the module also allowing a user to modify the user information and course information in order to *assign the courses to classes of users*; and
- a course creation module that includes a document editor that is used to create documents for the courses by adding text and graphics to a *course template selected from a database of course templates*, wherein the course creation module allows a user to organize the course documents into a desired sequence to form a completed course.

Accordingly, Claim 1 includes allowable subject matter.

Claims 2-14:

Claims 2-14 are dependent upon Claim 1 and thus include allowable subject matter.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Doug Hutton whose telephone number is (571) 272-4137. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon, can be reached at (571) 272-4136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2100.

WDH
July 18, 2005



DOUG HUTTON
PATENT EXAMINER
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